

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

What is claimed is:

Claims 1-29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) A polymer scaffold microfabricated by a method comprising:
generating an elastomer mold;
directing a polymer into the mold, wherein the polymer is a hydrogel;
curing the polymer in the mold to form a polymer membrane, wherein said membrane comprises a surface with varying topology including at least one feature with at least one dimension of about 10 to 100 microns;
removing the cured polymer membrane from the mold; and
assembling two or more cured polymer membranes to provide a layered polymer scaffold.

31. (Currently Amended) A microfabricated polymer scaffold comprising a plurality of membranes, wherein each membrane comprises a surface with varying topology including at least one feature with at least one dimension of about 10 to 100 microns, and wherein the membranes comprise a biopolymer hydrogel.

Claims 32-33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously Presented) The polymer scaffold of claim 30, wherein the elastomer is selected from the group consisting of a silicone polymer, a poly(dimethylsiloxane) (PDMS) and an epoxy polymer.

35. - 37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently Amended) The polymer scaffold of claim ~~[[37]]~~ 30, wherein the hydrogel comprises polyethylene glycol, polyethylene oxide, polyvinyl alcohol, polyvinyl pyrrolidone,

polyacrylates, poly (ethylene terephthalate), poly(vinyl acetate), and copolymers and blends thereof.

39. (Withdrawn) The polymer scaffold of claim 30, further comprising coating the cured polymer scaffold with a substance selected from the group consisting of polysaccharides, peptides and proteins that modulate cell adhesion.

40. (Withdrawn) The polymer scaffold of claim 39, wherein the substances promote cell adhesion.

41. (Withdrawn) The polymer scaffold of claim 40, wherein the substance is selected from the group consisting of collagen, fibronectin, vitronectin, Arg-Gly-Asp (RGD) and Tyr-Ile-Gly-Ser-Arg (YIGSR) peptides, glycosaminoglycans (GAGs), hyaluronic acid (HA), integrins, selectins and cadherins.

42. (Withdrawn) The polymer scaffold of claim 39, wherein the substances inhibit cell adhesion.

43. (Withdrawn) The polymer scaffold of claim 42, wherein the substances comprise triblock polymers.

44. (Withdrawn) The polymer scaffold of claim 39, wherein the substances are selected from a list consisting of pluronics, surfactants, bovine serum albumin, poly hydroxyethylmethacrylate, polyacrylamide, and polymethymethacrylate.

45. (Previously Presented) The polymer scaffold of claim 30, further comprising inducing porosity by contacting the polymer with a particulate leaching agent.

46. (Previously Presented) The polymer scaffold of claim 45, wherein the particular leaching agent is selected from the group consisting of sugar, salt and protein.

47. (Canceled)

48. (Previously Presented) The polymer scaffold of claim 30, further comprising the attachment of the two or more cured polymer membranes to each other by applying mechanical

pressure and heating.

49. (Previously Presented) The polymer scaffold of claim 30, further comprising contacting the polymer membranes with cells.

50. - 52. (Canceled)

53. (Currently Amended) The microfabricated polymer scaffold of claim [[52]] 31, wherein the hydrogel comprises polyethylene glycol, polyethylene oxide, polyvinyl alcohol, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, polyacrylates, poly (ethylene terephthalate), poly(vinyl acetate), and copolymers and blends thereof.

54. (Withdrawn) The microfabricated polymer scaffold of claim 31, further comprising coating the membrane with a substance selected from the group consisting of polysaccharides, peptides and proteins that modulate cell adhesion.

55. (Withdrawn) The microfabricated polymer scaffold of claim 54, wherein the substances promote cell adhesion.

56. (Withdrawn) The microfabricated polymer scaffold of claim 55, wherein the substance is selected from the group consisting of collagen, fibronectin, vitronectin, Arg-Gly-Asp (RGD) and Tyr-Ile-Gly-Ser-Arg (YIGSR) peptides, glycosaminoglycans (GAGs), hyaluronic acid (HA), integrins, selectins and cadherins.

57. (Withdrawn) The microfabricated polymer scaffold of claim 54, wherein the substances inhibit cell adhesion.

58. (Withdrawn) The microfabricated polymer scaffold of claim 57, wherein the substances comprise triblock polymers.

59. (Withdrawn) The microfabricated polymer scaffold of claim 54, wherein the substances are selected from a list consisting of pluronics, surfactants, bovine serum albumin, poly hydroxyethylmethacrylate, polyacrylamide, and polymethymethacrylate.

60. (Previously Presented) The microfabricated polymer scaffold of claim 31, wherein the

membrane is porous.

61. (Previously Presented) The microfabricated polymer scaffold of claim 31, wherein the membrane is a mesh.

62. (Canceled)

63. (Previously Presented) The microfabricated polymer scaffold of claim 31, further comprising cells attached to the membrane.

64. (Currently Amended) The polymer scaffold of claim [[37]] 30, ~~wherein the hydrogel comprises~~ further comprising cells.

65. (Previously Presented) The polymer scaffold of claim 30, wherein the at least one feature comprises through-holes.

66. (Previously Presented) The microfabricated polymer scaffold of claim 31, wherein the at least one feature comprises through-holes.